(1) Claims about the area affected by drought and floods have been grossly exaggerated;

(2) amounts available for drought relief have been spent in non-drought affected districts;

(3) amounts for employment generation have been spent long after the need for employment arising out of drought was over;

(4) amounts available for employment generation have been spent on activities which have generated minimal employment (e.g. drilling of bore wells on private fields);

(5) relief assistance has been utilised for activities not connected with relief;

(6) State Governments have drawn Central assistance on the basis of anticipated expenditure which was not likely to and did not materialise; large amounts have been over-drawn;

(7) amounts avaiable for repair of houses have been utilised for construction of entirely new houses apparently because assistance was availed of on the basis of exaggerated claims of damage to houses;

(8) with assistance for repairs of school buildings, new school buildings have been constructed apparently for the same reason as above.

(d) (i) Parawise comments of details in respect of c(i) above are as under:

Union Government has taken a very serious view with regard to irregularities committed in execution of IRDP. Administrative disciplinary action has been taken against the erring employees. States have been requested to be firm in dealing with such instances of irregular expenditure. In most cases where technical lapses of non-availability of prior clearance from the State Level Coordination Committee resulted in audit objection, the expenditure have been ratified by subsequent clearances obtained in the matter. Also, all identified expenses incurred for purposes outside the objectives of IRDP are being adjusted from the concerned State Governments.

As regards payment of stipend at rates higher than those admissible under TRYSEM, matter is under investigation with the respective District Rural Development Agencies and Department of Rural Development are in touch with the concerned DRDAs for detailed report of such investigations.

Legal action has been initiated against all those found guility in CBI enquiry report. Responsibility of the Bihar Government employees will be fixed after receipt of Vigilance Deparment report and administrative/legal action will be intiated against delinquent|guilty employees thereupon.

(ii) The findings of Central Monitoring Team on utilisation of relief assistance have been communicated to the concerned State Governments. The position will be reviewed on receipt of the views|comments from the State Governments.

Drinking water in Hilly tribal villages of M.P.

*372. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what special assistance has been given to the State of Madhya Pradesh for providing drinking water to the villages severely affected by water scracity;

(b) whether Government plan to pay special attention to the hilly tri-

bal villages where the water scarcity is most acute;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) In order to meet the requirements of drinking water in rural areas of Madhya Pradesh, affected by the current drought, an *ad hoc* Central assistance of Rs. 4 crores has been released. This is over and above the normal Central assistance given under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). This assistance will enable the Madhya Pradesh Government to instal tubewells in 100 villages covering a population of 50,000 and instal 1800 handpumps in 1500 villages to augment the water availability for a population of 2.7 lakhs. The assistance would also finance tankers' supply to 400 villages, benefiting a population of 1.2 lakhs. Assistance was also extended to Madhya Pradesh for meeting the rural drinking water needs caused by the last year's drought. The ceilings of expenditure sanctioned were in two instalments of Rs. 6.15 crores and Rs. 1.765 crores respectively.

(b) and (c) Special assistance to any State is given depending upon the severity of the drought situation, irrespective of the fact whether the affected area falls under the hilly tribal region or not. However, in the on-going rural water supply programmes under the State sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) and Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), special attention is being given to hilly tribal areas. Under the ARWSP, coverage of Scheduled Castes|Scheduled Tribes villages| habitations have been given first priority. Earmarking of funds under ARWSP for exclusive coverage of SC|ST population is also being done and the coverage is monitored.

Cost of production of cotton

*373. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of production of one quintal of cotton in 1984-85 was about Rs. 360 in Punjab and Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) what was the cost of production in Gujarat and Maharashtra in the same year and if it was higher there, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) Based on the data collected under the Comprehensive Scheme for Studying the Cost of Cultivation/ Production of Principal Crops in India, the per quintal cost of production of cotton works out of Rs. 357.28 and Rs. 361.52 in 1984-85 in Punjab and Madhya Pradesh respectively.

(b) Although, cost of production estimates of cotton for Gujarat and Maharashtra in 84-85 have not been generated based on the cost estimates during the previous three years i.e. 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84, it has been observed that the cost of production of cotton in Gujarat and Maharashtra have generally been higher than those of Punjab and Madhya Pradesh.

Preponement of the Procurement Season for Kharif Crop in Punjab

*374. SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to prepone the Kharif Procurement Season in Punjab to 15th September from 1st October; and

(b) what is the anticipated arrival of paddy in Punjab markets during September?